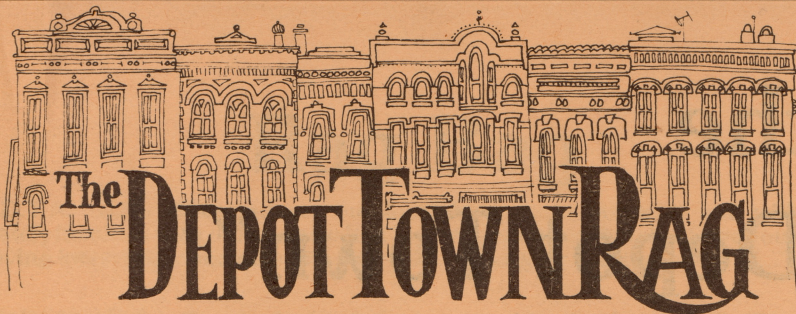




01/1983

A PUBLICATION OF THE
DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place,
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

January Meetings:

Depot Town Association
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
20 January 1983

Depot Town Merchants
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
18 January 1983

Depot Town Foundation
Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
22 January 1983

SIGNS - OF ANOTHER TIME

Modern folk like to smile at some of the old signage in our block and deign to treat the "Mail Pouch" billboards as an anachronism. A lot they know. Many of us still chew Mail Pouch Tobacco at Ike's and the Eagles' Hall. But they may be right. They don't put up signs like that any more.

Neither do they paste up "Bull Durham" tobacco and such as is dimly seen on the West wall of the Follett House. Durham Company had two versions of this proud bull. Ypsilanti got the more modest one with the discretely-placed fence post and rail. More liberal communities just got the bull - in all his masculine splendor. On that same wall you'll find mere hints of Overall ads clustered around the "Mayflower Storage" banner.

On the side of City Body we find vestiges of "Coca-Cola" and inside the Old Town Restaurant addition (formerly Snirley's Treasures) is one of best: "Finck's Overalls - They Wear Like a Pig's Nose" an early Mellencamp's theme.

When the light is just right you can still read "Thompson" diagonally on the South wall of Fantasee Lighting. Jack Miller's show-room is a good vantage point for this one.

From there you can also read "Buffet" and "Lunch" on the East wall of Aubree's Saloon. Sharp-eyed wags claim to read "The Oliver House" in the mortar above the second floor windows at that address. This is one which takes a good eye and lots of imagination.

A modern mystery hovers in the form of an "S" on the rear of Depot Exchange, attributed to a sign painter who walked out on his "Antiques" job just when it was time for him to go after a longer ladder.

(continued on page 6)

Report to Residents

LET's call this issue with its elegant, old-fashioned format, our regular, now-and-again report to our stockholders. For those new to the block, we'll review the involvement of the Depot Town Association with these old buildings...and endeavor to set a course for the next several hundred years, as well. The entire area celebrates Depot Town's recent success and revitalization. Our residential community to the east (the Historic East Side Association) happily shares our optimism and even downtown Ypsilanti folks are starting to talk to each other again. The recently-formed Central Business Community (CBC) proves that Depot Town does not have the corner on old fashioned neighborliness. Their marvelous Christmas exhibition on Washington Street brought back the tradition of Ford's Rotunda of a generation ago. "Recession be darned," Ypsilanti's creative community seems to be saying, "Let's get on with being a real city."

Some have described a city as being different than a town in that it contains separate and distinct districts. Granted, some Ypsilantians have suffered from fear of Ann Arbor for a while, but close observation proves our four-times larger sister to the West can learn much about neighborhood quality, historic preservation and community celebration from little, old Ypsilanti. We're older and we're getting better all the time.

CHEWIN' THE SAME OLD RAG?

We are proud to announce a new staff and new printers for the January 1983 neighborhood newsletter. Actually, it's an old crowd: STANDARD PRINTING has volunteered their expertise and they've been in the business down here for two generations. We're pleased for their interest and look forward to a great professional association. Bonni Rosen-Fine of ...AND EVERYTHING NICE will now act as managing editor of the RAG and Tom Kornilakis of the OLD TOWN RESTAURANT and Tom Dodd will make up the editorial staff.

We've received many promises of regular reporting and clever columns. Following Steve Gross' excellent year will be tough, but we're going to give it a try. Steve has kept us regular and that's most important. Such non-profit rags are usually the result of one dedicated and prolific writer. Thanks, Steve you carried on a tradition as old as Ben Franklin. Special thanks, also, to Rex and Sally Richie for their help this last season. fYou folks even got covered by the Ypsilanti Press and they're the big guys on this block!

The Rag has become a well-read and regular little publication, reflecting the vitality of this great neighborhood. We'll try to continue in the same tradition. We'll print almost anything...as long as it's excitingly local in color. Stick it in the door of the old caboose and watch it come out here. Watch for THE RAG in Depot Town Businesses.

NOT POLITICAL...

(wherein we drag out the old disclaimer and try not to get anybody mad at us)
Not Political: that's been our cry since we started this little RAG about six years ago and we have not backed candidates nor have we taken stands on partisan issues since then. We've even been so aloof and insular as to refuse paid advertisers who do not hold addresses in this district.

We now boast one of our own long-time members as the Mayor of our fair city, and we think it not at all inappropriate to say, "Congratulations, Peter Murdock. We're proud of you." Even though you do live five houses beyond the actual or assumed boundaries of Depot Town.

One of our editors is finishing a term on City Council and many others in the block are petitioning to fill that and another vacancy. We are happy for their involvement in the life of the city beyond our district boundaries and wish them well. We have a great deal down here that is worth sharing and it's time we spread it around a little bit.

But, not political? Not partisan? We all are. But The Rag isn't. The Rag will certainly have a position on the removal and replacement of the Cross Street Bridge this year. The Rag will certainly take a stand on the worth of the Historic District Ordinance if it is seriously challenged by anyone. The Rag will certainly air its views on the dissemination of public grants and funds within the district. We have long thought it a good idea for citizens to mail their income tax to the Depot Town Association and send on what we don't want to use locally to the Federal government for their other projects around the world.

Not political? Well, maybe. But this association and its publication are very much involved in the life of this community.

Memories of the "Early Depot Town"

by Joseph H. Thompson

I have been asked a number of times to give my impression of the Depot section just after 1900.

I was born on Maple Street very close to this area so I think I have a pretty good idea of the business section and some of the merchants and their activities in this part of the city. The east side had many names: The East Side, Depot Town, Cross Street, Down Town as opposed to Up-Town.

I hope that you will pardon me if I begin with the business my parents operated on the corner of River and Cross streets. It was known as the "Thompson Building". My grandfather, O.E. Thompson, my father, Benjamin Thompson, my uncle, Edward Thompson, and my uncle, John Thompson were very busy in the manufacturing of agricultural implements; root cutters, grass seeders, kraut & slaw cutters, and later porch swings. They employed about 40 men. They also ran a retail business selling coal, building supplies, carriages and wagons, paint and wall paper - at one time sold over 200 bicycles in one year. They had the agency for the Nichols and Shepherd threshing engines that were made in Battle Creek. I recall that they had a crew of paper hangers and painters that were busy in the city in that line of work.

In the Thompson Building there was also a tailor by the name of Otto Biske that made hand-made clothes for many of the people who could afford it. Right next to Mr. Biske's tailor shop was the city fire department where they operated one horse, and couple of firemen who slept up-stairs over the fire equipment. During the off hours Tommy Wilkinson operated this horse in picking up the refuse on the Depot streets. (You know they had horses in those days.) And up on the top of the building was a large bell that would ring and the number of strokes on the bell would tell you what location in town the fire was burning or being extinguished.

On Forest Avenue across from the woolen mill, was a tannery that Mr. Holland ran. He would buy hides from the farmers and tan them into leather. This was quite an operation. He also bought junk. Us kids used to sell him all the metal we could find around and he was a very nice old man as I can remember.

On Forest Avenue, up a little farther on River Street was a malt house run by Mr. Fred Swain. They converted barley into malt that was sold to extensive brewery operations around like Forrester's and like the ones in Ann Arbor and Manchester. That seemed to be a part of the brewing that was very essential in making beer.

Let's go back across the river now on the South side of Cross street. The first

building that I remember there was a law office where lawyer Lee M. Brown held forth. He has the attorney for all the Depot people that needed to go to law. Next to that law office, George W. Hayes had a grocery. And East of that grocery was John Engel Cartage and Coal office behind which he had an extensive barn and owned a number of teams of horses and drays that did the hauling around the Depot section. A junk dealer, Mr. Louie Cramer, was quite an operator. He had a little store and bought all the junk that was available at that time. Next to Mr. Cramer's place of business was a cigar store that was operated by Mr. Chris Duress. They called him "Doc", for he concocted a remedy that he claimed would restore lost manhood.

He filled his window one day with this remedy and the sun came through the window pretty bright and the bottles exploded and blew out the front windows so I guess he did away with his remedy after that experience. Tommy Duffy had a shoe repair shop right next door and took care of all the people's wants repairing their shoes.

Now we'll go up Cross Street a little bit farther east. A man by the name of Fremont Paterson had a store which was a bakery and candy store. He was also an inventor. He invented what they called a unicycle. It was a big, tall wheel and he was suspended in the center of it. I saw him come down Cross Street hill and wreck it one day and that was the last we ever heard of the unicycle. Charley Smith had a meat market next door. I guess in those days they called it a butcher shop, and outside of the city they had a slaughter house where the cattle were killed and then brought in and sold at retail. Joel Grieve had a bakery next door and I used to deliver for him on Saturdays. When we came back at night what bread we had left we fed the horse. Davis and Company had a grocery and drygoods store which did an extensive business. Across the alley A.A. Bedell had a shoe store and next was the Justice of the Peace office where they held trials and Squire Beach was, as I remember, the judge and following him was Frank Joslin. Upstairs over these two stores was the Maccabee Hall and it used to be called the Masonic Hall but they moved up town and the Maccabees took it over. Peter Cranson had a barber shop next door and Clyde Roe a restaurant next to him. There was next door what the people called a "horse exchange". It was where a bunch of gamblers came out from Detroit every day on the Michigan Central and it was what they called "off-track betting". Large black-boards lined the halls and the race results came in from around the country by wire and these men would bet the same as they do today at the horse races only there weren't any horses in sight. That place was run by Warren Lewis and it was very

thriving for number of years until George Burke was elected prosecutor and he closed it up. Upstairs over the horse exchange was a house of ill-repute. "Ma" Bush was the landlady and of course that completed the business section in that neighborhood. Nick Max had a saloon adjacent and Dick Wilbur operated a cigar store on the corner which is now removed. It was hit by a train and it still shows the scars of where the train struck the building. Later, on that corner, there was a food counter and I remember Mr. Bicraft, where you could go to get a sandwich and a cup of coffee. Down River Street, a ways south, was a foundry and machine shop where they made flour mill machinery. Mr. Charles Ferrier and Mr. George Walterhouse operated this. Next to them was a blacksmith shop run by Otto Rohn. Of course, all the horses had to be shod in those days and this was one place they could take them. Now, on the south-east corner of River and Michigan was the Ypsilanti Electric Company that furnished electric lights for the city in their homes and business, only there was no power generated at that time. It only ran at night because there wasn't any use of electricity in the day time. There were two plants in Ypsilanti - one that furnished the city lights and the water works and the other building furnished the lights for the homes. I remember our home at 108 Maple Street was the first one that was wired in Ypsilanti because it was the closest one to the plant. George Essinger came in with his wire. None of the wires were concealed. They just ran up the walls and across the ceilings except that they took the gas fixtures and rewired them for electric which were quite ornamental. Later this electric plant was sold to Edison Company.

I've been told by two interesting people of those days about a couple of sales that were made at the Depot. One was when Denny Doyle sold the Follett House. It seems that business had fallen off quite a lot. Denny wanted to sell the place so he heard about a fellow by the name of Mathias who was looking for a tavern so he invited him to Ypsilanti to take a look at the Follett House. Denny was a little bit unscrupulous in his business actions but he got a group of fellows to go to Ann Arbor with suit cases and another group to go down to Wayne and when the Michigan Central train came in these fellows flocked into the Fellet House to register and stay over night. Mathias was sitting in the lobby and he looked over the crowd and just then the train came in from the other way and these fellows he had sent to Wayne came in. Well, the bar was doing business and the barber shop was doing business and Mathias was mesmerized by the amount of business he anticipated so he bought the place; and didn't

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Rag Bag

THE D.T.A. RAG BAG features our local business community and will become intimately involved with old and new folk in our commercial block. Save your facts for the roving interviewer and give him lots of local facts for coming issues of...THE RAG BAG.

WHEN IN DOUBT: Ever in doubt of what to get a friend or loved one? Then why not visit one of our newest shops in Depot Town? **WHEN IN DOUBT** is located at 23 E. Cross and is co-owned by Sue Freund and Joni Burton. Together they offer expert advice, as well as offer a vast array of cards, candles, glassware, wrapping paper, and also artists' consignments. For those of us who have ten hands when it comes to wrapping gifts, **WHEN IN DOUBT** offers free wrapping with a ten dollar purchase. So, when in doubt, come see Sue and Joni at **WHEN IN DOUBT**, 23 E. Cross Mon-Thurs 10-6, Friday 10-8, Saturday 9-5.

PHANTOM: If you have wondered what, or better yet, who the Phantom of the attic is...If you are a connoisseur of fine comics, cards and games...If you like video games. Yes I said video games...The **PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC** is the place you won't want to miss! The **PHANTOM** specializes in comics, new and old posters, cards, a bountiful candy bar selection, soda pop and the lowest cigarette prices in town. The **PHANTOM** is really owner Big Jim Weston, a graduate of the University of Michigan (so that's where he learned to play Pac Man so well). Big Jim is a very diversified gentleman who has done everything but sell popcorn at U of M football games. But, there is always next year. If you like Pac Mac, Cintipedes, or Frogger, then the **PHANTOM**, yes the big kid who loves to hate kids - but can't help himself any - dares you to come and beat his high scores. Hey, Jim: who is your favorite super hero?

ESQUIRE: If you have been looking around your house, trying to come up with new ways to show your house off but alas coming up dry with ideas...**ESQUIRE INTERIORS** says give us a call! Boasting well over thirty years experience in interior design, they would be more than happy to assist you in your endeavor. **ESQUIRE INTERIORS** is owned and operated by Norm and Wanda Barron, joined by son Ted, specializing in window insulation and treatment. The Rag staff would like to welcome **ESQUIRE** back to Depot Town. **ESQUIRE** originally opened here in the block before moving to Michigan Avenue. Welcome back! **ESQUIRE** specializes in: Insulated Window Treatments, Vertical Blinds, Woven Woods and Shutters, Carpet and Wallpapers, Custom-Made Draperies, Low Prices Free Estimates
Open Monday Through Saturday 10-6, 10 East Cross Street.

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ARTRAIN STAFFER RETURNS TO DEPOT TOWN

In true small town fashion, when the Michigan Artrain came to Depot Town in 1972, Ypsilantians adopted it as one of their favorite projects. Some say it signaled the rebirth of this neighborhood. When it returned in June of 1981 we welcomed it back and behaved as if we had owned it all along. This year, when Artrain needed a full-time technician, they came back to Depot Town to see if that local train expert who hosted their recent visit so ably was available to transport the world's only travelling art museum around the state for them. We interviewed John Waite at the Depot Town Caboose in December.

Rag: What was your official title on last summer's Michigan Artrain?

Waite: I was the Staff Technician. My job was to get the train ready, get it moved from place to place, keep it powered at each stop, and maintain the delicate air conditioning and humidity balance necessary for its priceless cargo. Mostly, my job was to supervise all the physical necessities of the Artrain.

Rag: When did you join the Artrain crew?

Waite: We started late: on July twelfth at Selfridge Air Force Base in Mt. Clemens where the train wintered since the previous summer's tour. We then prepared the five cars for the new tour which began August tenth.

Rag: Where was your first destination?

Waite: Grand Rapids. And we had some interesting railroad problems there. That was during the railroad engineers strike. We had to be in Grand Rapids longer than we had planned, but it's a nice town to be in. Lots of community spirit there and great interest in cultural events too. It's nice to know that even a larger city can have as much fun as we experience in little old Depot Town.

Rag: And what was your itinerary after that?

Waite: Then we went on to Lansing. We had a frantic set-up there - and Owosso had to cancel their engagement so we spent an extra week in Lansing. Even with that over-stay we averaged well over one hundred people an hour going through the exhibits on board.

Rag: Do you get to see much of the community when you're with the train?

Waite: Oh, yes. Our next stop was Whitehall where we (the staff) were put up and entertained royally at the White Lake Resort. After that, word got around the Artrain staffers were good for a party...and we met the challenge at Hidden Valley Resort while the train was stopped in Gaylord.

Rag: Sounds like nice work if you can get it. How do you move the train, John: Some of us take the railroad business very much for granted. Do you have an "Artrain

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HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN FOUNDATION

(In a recent communication to City Manager Van Whaler, Alex Sucek introduced him to the plans of the Depot Town Foundation. He explained that this was an interim document, but useful to inform other concerned persons and organizations about Foundation plans. "We have great faith," said Alex, "in the future of Depot Town and what it can do for all of Ypsilanti in stimulating economic growth and providing employment. We would like all of you to share in our enthusiasm and hopes because we will need your approval and support.")

The following is the Foundation's STATEMENT OF PURPOSE adopted December 1, 1982. Officers of the Foundation are Chairman, Marybelle Sucek; Vice Chairman, John Waite; Secretary-treasurer, Alexander C. Sucek; Trustees; Tom Dodd, Carolyn McKeever, Gerald F. Meadows, William French.)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: December 1, 1982

The Historic Depot Town Foundation (HDF) has been formed by the Depot Town Association to carry on the original role for which DTA was created: Create a long range plan for the coordinated development of Depot Town.

In taking on this assignment, the trustees of HDF have concluded that we have several key assets to work with, and that we must be guided by practical realities facing Depot Town, its property owners and its businesses.

Briefly, the realities are that the property owners and merchants are all private individuals or small businessmen with limited resources; major development will require large outside funding; any project, business or other activity that is undertaken must be commercially profitable; developing Depot Town as another business district with no further distinguishing feature is not likely to stimulate any better business climate than exists anywhere else, particularly in nearby downtown Ypsilanti; for this reason, a special "theme" must be adopted.

Depot Town has certain special assets. It shares with other parts of Ypsilanti a distinctive history and historic character which is represented by buildings that can be restored to enhance the historic character and create an unusual and interesting locale. It has a railroad yard with a freight building and depot where the Farmers' market is now in operation. It has private owners who live in Depot Town and now have a strong common sense of purpose. It has an already proved track record of making things happen in the area and attracting people. It is adjacent to the river, Frog Island, the park and some of Ypsilanti's most attractive historic buildings already restored. And the area has already risen from abandoned status to a very respectable level of residents and transients who come to shop, be entertained and enjoy the developing character of Depot Town.

The Foundation's mission then is to develop a long range plan that will face the realities and make optimum use of the assets to benefit Depot Town and its people, and the adjacent areas of Ypsilanti, perhaps the whole city, as well.

What can Depot Town become? It can not

be an industrial park, factory site, office plaza, or just another business district. It would be pointless to try to duplicate downtown's business atmosphere. Yet ultimately, it must be a place where people are attracted to purchase goods and services. We can accomplish this if it is also a place where they are entertained in a worthwhile way.

It is our judgment that the solution for Depot Town, and possibly for all of Ypsilanti in a broader sense, lies in the very special if not unique asset that this city has: So much of its original character has survived in its old buildings, many of them already restored and well maintained, and many more very restorable. As a backdrop for all sorts of commercial activity, this can give Ypsilanti a unique competitive edge over other communities and commercial areas. We can differentiate our development by making history the thematic feature, indeed, a major attraction of the Depot Town development. The historic character can be exploited in a positive way if properly developed. That is what we propose to do in Depot Town.

Accordingly, HDF is developing its long range plan around the concept of an historic, educational center of shopping and entertainment. This center will function as a major tourist attraction where people come for amusement as well as to satisfy needs for goods and services. It is our hope and intent to make it informative and educational as well. In a very broad sense, it will be a commercial mall with a historic theme.

A rough outline of the plan that is taking shape includes:

- Restore the buildings to as near their original character as possible and practical, with an eye to the contemporary uses to which they will be put.
- Where new construction is needed, make it harmonious with the historic atmosphere in the spirit of the guidelines for restoration of the Secretary of the Interior.
- Redesign and revise public areas, such as streets, sidewalks, parks, parking, lighting, signage, etc. in a way that supports and enhances the desired atmosphere.
- Emphasize the era of railroading and lumbering that coincided with the heyday of Depot Town as the overall historic theme. This is important since it will influence the kinds of goods, services and entertainment and educational attractions

that can be offered.

- Identify and encourage art, crafts and business activity that relate to and help to recreate the "Depot Town Heyday."

- Raise funds to help Depot Town property owners and businesses to carry out their parts of the plan on a businesslike and profitable basis.

- Seek special funding to carry out necessary renovation work to public areas and park improvements that are not justified for commercial investment but are essential for the plan.

Some examples of the elements that this plan might include are:

- Rebuild the Depot and lease it to a restaurateur.

- Place an operating steam locomotive with passenger cars in the RR yard and use it to run excursions.

- Rebuild the millrace and a mill on Frog Island to turn out cabinet millwork and/or grist flour for local manufacturing use.

- Attract craftsmen to open handicraft shops to manufacture unique local products that are typical of the "Depot Town era."

- Build another paper mill and specialize in hand laid art papers.

WHAT WE DID

1972 1973 1974 1975

1976

Michigan
Artrain
visits

Public Sector

City
Dep

Private Sector

Dep
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- Develop the bicycle path and attract a bike shop for sales, repairs and rentals.
- Reconstruct the railroad water tower and use it to house a RR museum.
- Restore the Depot Gardens and expand them to the terraces in the park. Use them as the basis for a nursery business specializing in plants of the Depot Town Era, perhaps with tie-in with a market grower.
- Plan the use of handicapped and retarded workers in the special, historically oriented businesses of Depot Town.
- Encourage the presentation of theatrical shows, music and arts, especially of the Depot Town era. An example is the Jazz Festival that has already succeeded in the Freight House.

Some important planning is already in progress and our accomplishments to date are promising. We have a graduate level class at the University of Michigan slated to develop and generate an economic plan and physical model based on input and criteria from us. That information is a more detailed version of this document. We are also working on having a team at Eastern Michigan University research the traditions, products and activities of the Depot Town era to guide us in selecting products and activities that will be appropriate.

In the meantime, Depot Town has already proven itself to be a viable economic unit within Ypsilanti. By expanding and developing Historic Depot Town as a center of tourism, shopping and entertainment, we believe it can stimulate increased business activity in the rest of the city as well. We believe that other parts of the city, in fact, will want to participate by continuing to enhance the historic identity of the city.

Let us emphasize, also, that we are not creating a museum, even though we want our restorations to be authentic and of good quality. We want to restore the historic buildings to serve as a fascinating thematic backdrop for a lively and economically healthy community-neighborhood, if you will-which is built around a historic theme and which can give people an appreciation of a period in our history while it amuses, entertains and satisfies needs.

One important potential benefit of this kind of development is to make the entire city a more appealing place to live, work and locate a business. Companies like to locate in a community that is diversified and interesting. Many examples exist including the growth of Stratford, Ontario, since its citizens established the summer Shakespeare Festival there. We are convinced that our concept can succeed here, partly because it is what is already happening in Depot Town on a small scale.

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GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
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ART & CRAFTS CLASSES
CC C. CROSS YPSILANTI
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

D LAST DECADE . . down in Depot Town:

1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Turner Plan for Depot announced-Historic District formed						Michigan Arttrain returns
						Save-the-depot task force organized
						Amtrak agrees to talk
						plan reborn
y approves Depot Town Plan	CDBG funds approved					Market moves into Freight House
Parking meters removed	new street, walks and planters			Farmers' Market opens		
oot Town Association organized	incorporated	tax-exempt	constitution re-written		Retail Merchants organize	Foundation formed
ry French A Pres.	Bev Shankwiler DTA Pres.	Tom Dodd DTA Pres.			Carolyn McKeever DTA pres.	
	Neighbor hood monthly newsletter	supported by local ads				"Depot Town Rag"
	Caboose Campaign	Caboose arrives	Caboose restored		Caboose paid off	
	Sidewalk Celebration	Ypsilanti I	Yesteryear II	Heritage III	Festival IV	WEMU/DTA Jazz Competition, Series, comp. series

Memories of Depot Town

(continued from page 2)

they sell him another place up in the Thompson Building for an overflow of his patrons. Well, he paid his money and he owned the hotel and Doyle was gone.

Another incident that happened that had a little humor to it was when they had the fiftieth anniversary and the celebration was held at the Depot. They had an arch over the road that was made of lattice and up on the top of the arch they had a figure of the Goddess of Liberty, which was a manikin bust that they borrowed from some milliner. Well, they had a speaker - I don't know, a congressman or somebody, come here to make the speech for the fiftieth anniversary. They had this bust up on top of the arch with a shroud over it and at a critical time in his speech they were to pull the rope and that would take the shroud off the bust. But, in the night some wag crawled up on there and with his jackknife cut a hole in the mouth of the Goddess of Liberty and inserted about a 7-inch cigar so at the critical moment they pulled off the shroud and there was the Goddess of Liberty, instead of looking fresh and sweet as she should, she had this great big cigar in her mouth and it brought down the house. Well - so much for that.

There was quite an interesting thing that happened at the Depot. Mr. Shelly B. Hutchinson had a shoe store there at one time and in visiting a friend of his over in Jackson he noticed that he had a sales gimmick where he gave each customer a coupon and on Saturday night they would have a drawing and somebody would get a nice piece of jewelry. Well, that started Mr. Hutchinson thinking about trading stamps and he developed the whole thing in the Depot section of Ypsilanti. And that is the Hutchinson of the S & H Trading Stamps. He built a beautiful home on River Street that still stands, which is kind of a monument of his great success in the trading stamp business. Other things that Mr. Hutchinson got into didn't pan out so well. He started a newspaper in Detroit called the United States Daily that failed and he started a cereal factory something

like the Battle Creek Cereal over at the Depot and that didn't do too well.

Did you know a horse-drawn street car operated between Depot Town and Up Town? It was driven by Ruben Cole and went west on Cross Street to Washington and then south to Harriett Street. I recall my mother placing me on a seat with a quantity of sewing material and patterns and Mrs. Frank Showerman removing me, at her home on South Washington Street. They never turned the car around, simply changed the horse to the other end.

Well, I hope I haven't made too many mistakes in this little discourse and I hope some of you people find it interesting about the early days of Depot Town.

ARTRAIN

(continued from pg 3)

Engine" too?

Waite: Local railroads throughout the country move the train, free of charge, and at their convenience. They've been most cooperative. It took us four and a half days, however, to get from Whitehall to Gaylord. No, the Artrain does not have its own engine.

Rag: Was there a chance of coming back to Depot Town last year?

Waite: Sure. In fact, we were here twice...passing through on our way to a stop in Dexter. After that, we spent two weeks in Bay City and then back to Selfridge Air Force Base for the winter lay-up.

Rag: John, what are the tour plans for 1983?

Waite: We're putting together next year's tour schedule right now. We hope to pull out earlier -- in mid-March so we can spend sixteen weeks touring Michigan communities and then on to the Three Rivers Arts Festival in Pittsburg and back to Midland, Michigan for the Fourth of July. After that we hope to put together an itinerary which will be California-bound.

Rag: And after that? Will you ever realize that dream of taking the Michigan Artrain to our forty-ninth state?

Waite: Right now, the Alaska tour doesn't look possible. But with another year of planning time -- who knows?

Rag: And you hope to be on it, right?

Waite: Well, who wouldn't look forward to a train trip like that one? I should think such a trip would easily place in the Guinness Book of World Records, since trains don't run from down below to Alaska. A large part of the trip would be by boat, you know, to connect our lines with Alaska's. I think that would be the railfan's trip of a lifetime.

Rag: And the crew sleeps in the caboose, I suppose?

Waite: No. I know that's the romantic

SIGNS OF ANOTHER TIME

(continued from pg 1)

No doubt there are others extant in this old district. Point them out and we'll print them.

We're also open to printing in another historical category: like the Morse Code signals written on the window sill of the depot identifying each rail yard up and down the line

- and the Follett house ballroom ticket window toting up the house for several seasons. Above the stairway you will also find a "girly" drawing complete with bustle.

- Some of the "swellest names in town" grace the third floor former bordello in what is now the Artrain building and most are accompanied by four-digit phone numbers.

Newly posted signs which carry on this flat-to-the-wall tradition are much appreciated. An old motto used to say, "Time's the Test. Old ways are best." What do you think? Could such simplistic sloganeering make it in today's fast paced world? Just maybe.

conception of such employment, but actually, only the full-time railroad crew rides the train. The Artrain staff goes by station wagon/van from stop-over to stop-over. With the exception of one technician who rides the train. That's me, usually.

Rag: Like we said, nice work if you can get it. Sounds like the perfect job for Depot Town's most professional railroader. John, do you use that caboose much like we use this one, here in Ypsilanti?

Waite: Exactly. It's the train office, just like on any train. It's where the staff can meet with local committees and can also be used as the employees' lounge when on site. That caboose looks alot like Depot Town's on the outside, but quite a different configuration inside. The cupola is in the center and side benches make it one long meeting place. Artrain and railroad officials agree that their caboose is almost ready for retirement, due to structural-aging problems. Could you use another ancient caboose in Depot Town?

Rag: Let's talk. We know you'd just add it to your own list of collected cabooses, since you already use one for the family cottage in northern Michigan. But meantime, John, we're happy you are back and look forward to more railroad reports from you when the Michigan Artrain pulls out next spring.

We're proud that Artrain recognized your skills and found you as usefull as we have, down in Depot Town. Thanks, John.

A LONG WINTERS NAP

The recent holiday season in Depot Town was the most beautiful yet. The store windows were magnificent. We have kept up our spirit in what is supposedly the worst of times. Don't let the winter blahs get you now! Keep those sidewalks cleaned off and get rid of that Christmas window. It's time for the next stage. The next three Jazz events in the series give us some continuity to see us through the long, cold winter. Next thing you know, it'll be Boomer Days again.



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BUSINESS FOR BREAKFAST

Washtenaw Community College, in cooperation with the Arborland Merchants Association, is pleased to announce "Business for Breakfast, management training for retail merchants." Participants will learn how to be more effective managers, how to select and retain employees, how to increase productivity and how to improve communications. The seminars will begin Wednesday, February 16 and run for 4 weeks from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Training will be held be Arborland Mall. The fee, \$40.00 per person, covers all materials. Enrollment will be limited. If you are interested, please contact the Institute for Economic Development and Job Training staff at W.C.C. at 973-3352 or 973-3493.

NEW TAX CHANGES

A book explaining all of the new tax changes called "The 1982 Tax Law: What it Does to You and Your Business" will be available for loan from the Chamber's Small Business Council. The book was written especially for the average small businessperson and summarizes changes made by the Tax Equity and Fiscal responsibility Act of 1982, the Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1982, as well as important changes in Subchapter S. For more information, contact Jennifer Rice at the Chamber. If you are not already on the mailing list for Jennifer's "Small Business News" call her right away: 482-4920.

SMALL BUSINESS HELPS FROM THE FEDS

15. Handbook of Small Business Finance; indicates the major areas of financial management and describes a few techniques that can help the small business owner. 045-000-00139-3 63pp \$3.00

25. Guides for Profit Planning: Guides for computing and using the breakeven point, the level of gross profit and the rate of return on investment. 045-000-00137-7 36pp \$1.50

27. Profitable Community Relations for Small Business: Practical information on how to build and maintain sound community relations by participation in community affairs. 045-000-00033-8 36pp \$1.50

30. Insurance and Risk Management for Small Business: A discussion of what insurance is, the necessity of obtaining professional advice on buying insurance, and the main types of insurance a small business may need. 045-000-00037-1 72pp \$3.00

31. Management Audit for Small Retailers: 149 questions guide the owner-manager in a self examination and a review of the business operation. 045-000-00k49-1 61pp \$1.80

33. Small Store Planning and Growth: Included is a consideration of merchandising, advertising and display, and checklists for increase in transactions and gross margins. 045-000-00152-1 102pp \$2.40

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SEMINARS especially designed to help small businesses during current economic times. A series of seminars designed for the small business person, from starting a business to cost control. WCC is a member of the American Association of Community and Junior College's National Small Business Training Network. This project is designed to improve the quality and quantity of short-term management training available to small businesses. Among those of possible interest to Depot Town shopkeepers are:

TAX PLANNING FOR SMALL BUSINESS: This informative seminar reviews current taxation laws and provide up-to-date data for small business owners to utilize their tax planning. The instructor for the class is a WCC faculty member in Business (1 session).

Steven Vass, Instructor; Saturday, February 12, 9 am - 1 pm; Fee \$20.00

SALES TRAINING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: This course will review the basic retail skills, approaching customers, product knowledge, merchandise demonstration, suggestive selling and closing techniques. The instructor is a WCC faculty member and retail sales consultant, Michigan Retailers Association. (3 weeks). Steven Ennes; Thursday, March 10, 7 pm - 9 pm; Fee \$30.00.

MARKETING STRATEGIES THAT WORK: Effective promotion is essential to successful entrepreneurship. Learn how to market your product better. The instructor for this class is a member of the National Advisory Council USSBA and President of JBP Publication, Inc. (1 session). Jeanne Paluzzi; Saturday, March 19, 9 am - 1 pm; Fee \$20.00.

Registration: Community Services of WCC La 100
P.O. Box D-1, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
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When Jimmy and Ernie Wilkins joined the Count Basie Orchestra in 1954, they became part of a most vital modern swing and bebop tradition. Nearly 30 years later Ernie is known around the world for his continuing writing and arranging for the Basie Orchestra for 26 years; his smooth "Basically Basie" style is thoroughly danceable, eminently listenable and completely up to date. With top Detroit veterans like Ernie Rodgers, Herbie Williams, Gene Kees, Ed Gooch and George Benson, it's easy to understand why this band has lasted for over a quarter century. Don't miss this spectacular musical event in the Farmers' Market Freight House in Historic Depot Town, Ypsilanti.

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THE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHER TRADITION CONTINUES

Local historians are forever thankful that nearly every commercial district had its photography studio where folks sat for formal portraits, posed in front of their businesses and recorded small town events with great black and white accuracy. Bill Seimers' reproductions of antique Ypsilanti post cards and the popularity of Barry and John LaRue's old films certainly attest to the value of such historical record-keeping. How we love to pour over Foster Fletcher's collections at the Museum and find that someone had the foresight, years ago, to make a record of things. Last month's Historical Society meeting exhibited a 1928 movie shot among long-familiar landmarks in the Ypsilanti neighborhoods. No one recognizes "cousin Henry" anymore, but that was the Seminary front door he was coming through.

Seems that Depot Town photographer Bill Gosa is ably filling that tradition today. There he was at Santa's side, in the downtown exhibition in the old Ann Arbor Craftsmen building. We saw him again at the opening Jazz Concert with Lyman Woodard. Many Depot Towners have sat for portraits in his elegant new studio at 6 E. Cross. See Bill's photo promotion board in the Farmers' Market and leave your name and he'll make prints for you -- to save in that old trunk in the attic and tell your grandchildren about the good old days in Depot Town -- in 1983.

To Members of the Depot Town Railroad Club:

I, Milton Barnes, am in Gilbert Infirmary, 203 Souh Huron St., with a broken spine and in a wheelchair. Lest you think that being blind and broken backbone puts us Barnes folk out of business, in this Christmas letter to the Caboose Club, NOTE that when the Ypsilanti Opera House was built in the 1880's the talent was dependent on stock companies of theatrical folks who would organize troupes usually originating in New York which after playing their repertoire in the Bijou Theater would travel toward Chicago on the Lyceum-Orpheum-Keith circuit using the "water-level" train route. We later called it the New York -- the route of the Twentieth Century Limited. Those traveling troupes stopped for weekends at Albany, Syracuse Schenectady, Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Sandusky, Toledo, Monroe, Detroit, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Three Rivers, Niles, Gary and finished in a downtown Chicago theater, sometimes the Studebaker. In cities theater-minded, like Ann Arbor, they would run through the entire repertoire taking a week. Ypsilanti was usually a one night stand. Sometimes the companies went broke before the reached Kazoo and Hazel Stitt of Ypsi has a list of sixty two melodramas played here and her brother had some "drops" left by bankrupt troupes. You can add this bit to the lore collected by Depot Town Club.

Milton Barnes

(Mr. Barnes is one of our oldest supporters and reports to us in these pages with great regularity. We're sure he'd like to hear from our readers while convalescing at the Gilbert Residence.)

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

a publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc.

a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation

dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood
and to the enhancement of its business climate

Carolyn McKeever, president

(DTA: The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197)

Annual Dues: Regular membership \$25.00

MEETING TIMES:

The Association
Third Thursday

The Merchants
Third Tuesday

The Foundation
Fourth Thursday

All at 7:30 pm
All in the Caboose

Please send more information on the Depot Town Association to:

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